Achievements of the Aquaculture Task Force

7399. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the achievements of Task Force constituted for the development of Aquaculture for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPTTS. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): The Department of Biotechnology has constituted a Task Force on Aquaculture and Marine Biotechnology which provides overall guidance to the Department in the programmes in Aquaculture. Currently, about 50 projects including 7 Mission projects on semi-intensive prawn aquaculture are in operation.

While the Department of Agriculture is the nodal Department for the overall development of Aquaculture activities in the country, the Department of Biotechnology complements and supplements their role through biotechnology inputs.

Some salient achievements (1993—95)

(a) Research and development:

Programmes in critical areas of seed, feed, culture systems, disease/diagnostics, bioactive compounds, spawning agents, cryopreservation and transgenics have been supported under the guidance of a Task Force.

Carp production systems of 10—15 t/ ha/yr develped through DBT support at CIFA, Bhubaneshwar have been packaged for transfer.

Eicosapantaenoic acid (EPA) is a very potent drug against various atherosclerotic heart diseases and is used in other countries. A scale up technology developed for this at Bose Institute, Calcutta is being patented. The product is to undergo clinical trials.

At the National Centre for freshwater pearl culture at CIFA, Bhubaneshwar, pearls are being produced. Nuclear beads made from acrylic materials are found promising as a substitute for imported nuclei.

At Fisheries College Mangalore, under the programme Monoclonal antibodies for serotyping, diagnosis and antigen characterisation of *Aeromonas hydrophila*, the isolates of *A. hydrophila* have been characterised and virulence potential investigated.

Under the project on use of biopesticides for control of microbial diseases in major carps at Nagpur University, studies revealed that the isolates of B.t inhibited *Pseudomonas* sp. and *Escherichia coli.*

At Madras University, a polyhedrosis virus has been identified in the mysis, post larval and sub-adult stages of *Penaeus monodon.* Studies are being carried out to identity other virus, to generate nucleic acid probes and to establish primary cell lines from shrimps. These are expected to help tackle disease problems in shrimp.

Under the programme on genetic upgradation, at NBFGR, Lucknow hatching percentages achieved with cryopreserved sperm in common carp, brown trout and rainbow trout were 25.1, 55.8 and 18.9 respectively. The local stocks have been cross bred with other stocks using cryopreserved and fresh milt.

At MKU, Madurai, presumptive transgenic catfish have been prduced. About 75% of the developing eggs and hatchlings were subjected to analysis. In most cases, cytoplamic persistence of the injected foreign gene was confirmed.

A feed developed at CETRI had shown good production when tested in a semi-intensive shrimp farming sytem at

Nellore. The technology is being scaled up for commercialisation.

(b) Aduaculture Mission Mode Programmes:

The mission mode programme on Semi-intensive Prawn Aquaculture to demonstrate technologies in different agro-climatic zones of the country on a commercially viable basis was launched in 1993-94. The programme will continue till March 1997. Two main components of the programme are—fresh water and brackish water prawn aquaculture. The programme has been taken up at seven sites in States/UTs of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

It is expected that the Mission Mode Programme would give a boost to marine/brackish/fresh water shrimp farming in addition to demonstrating brood stock technology, hatchery, feed development, diagnostics and setting up R & D facilities.

US proposal to set up Space Centre in India

7400. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America proposes to set up a space centre in India;

(b) if so, the site selected and the location of the centre; and

(c) the main objectives of setting up that Space Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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Space Programme Ignoring Social Goals

7401. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Space programme ignoring social goals" as reported in the 'Stateman' dated the 25th February, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the social goals laid down at the time of formulating the country's space programme have been ignored; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Commitment to meet the primary objective of socio-economic development of the Nation, with emphasis on self-reliance, through the establishment of INSAT and IRS Satellite System and building up of commensurate launch capability through PSLV and GSLV, has been hallmark of the Indian Space Programme since its inception.

The Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) with indigenously built satellites, INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B, is today providing vital services for Telecommunication, TV Broadcasting, Rural Telegraphy, improved weather forecasting for agricultural planning, disaster warning for timely evacuation of affected people, and satellite-based interactive education for the rural population, industrial workers, social workers etc.

The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) System has been providing advance warning on drought conditions, providing